



# 115th Parkwood Hills (Ottawa) Sea Scouts



## General Information

### Scouting Mission:

“To contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law, to help build a better world where people are self fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society.”

The Scout program emphasizes having fun while encouraging youth to feel good about themselves, their friends and family, God, and the environment. The Scout program helps youth expand their leadership skills and gain self-confidence.

The Scout program is designed around a lively variety of activities based on personal and group interests. Scouts emphasizes outdoor and environmental activities, citizenship and community service, leadership, and personal development. Individual interests and skills are recognized through an awards system. The outdoors is an essential part of the Scout program.

More information on the general scout program can be found on the Scouts Canada web site at

<http://www.scouts.ca/dnn/parents/OurPrograms/Scouts/tabid/2263/Default.aspx>

### Sea Scouts:

Sea Scouting programs have been part of the worldwide scouting movement since 1910 – see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea\\_Scout](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea_Scout) for some history. In Canada, Sea Scouts follow the regular scouting program with an emphasis on water activities such as canoeing, boating and swimming. At the 115<sup>th</sup>, our camping activities always include some aspect of canoeing (except for the winter camp) and we canoe locally every week from May to the end of July. We work together on badges such as the Paddling Badge and White-water Badge. Our terminology and ceremonies also reflect a naval influence; for example, scouts are divided into ‘crews’ instead of ‘patrols’ and the flag is unfurled from the yardarm instead of a pole.

The 115<sup>th</sup> Sea Scouts plan our activities to give every youth the opportunity to grow in outdoor skills, citizenship, leadership, and personal development in accordance with the Scouts Canada program.

### Weekly Meetings

The 115th Sea Scouts meet on **Monday evenings** at City View United Church, 6 Epworth Ave, Nepean. Meetings **start at 7:00 p.m. sharp and finish at 9:00 p.m.** Please arrive before the start (scouts help with set up) and pick up your scout promptly. For security reasons, parents are asked to ensure that leaders are present before leaving scouts at the hall. Should there be a change in location for any meeting, you will be notified in advance.

Scouts should arrive in uniform with their Scout book, and appropriate footwear for use inside the gymnasium. They should also have appropriate outer wear for the season in case we go outside for part of the meeting.

## **Camping**

Camping has always been a highlight of scouting. The 115<sup>th</sup> Sea Scouts typically have four camps in a year. The fall, winter and spring camps are weekend camps (2 nights) where we learn or refresh our outdoor skills and do activities suitable to the season: orienteering, canoeing, hiking, nature study, environmental awareness, sledding, avoiding mosquito bites, survival training and swimming. We also do all the activities that make every camping experience fun: campfires, outdoor cooking, chopping firewood, building fires, whittling and learning how to light stoves and lanterns. The winter camp is usually in a lean-to while the other camps are in tents or shelters built by the scouts.

In addition to the regular camps, we try to have at least one special camp, such as a multi-day canoe trek in Algonquin Park. These more challenging expeditions introduce scouts to the demands and joys of specialized expeditions.

Scouts participate in planning the camps and learn about proper gear, packing techniques, first aid and emergency planning. Parents are often asked to volunteer transportation and extra adult supervision depending on the type of camp. Scouts are expected to be able to pack their own gear properly and share the tasks of setting up camp and cooking meals. We camp in all seasons and all weather!

## **Outings and Events**

At various times through the year we travel out of the meeting hall for our meeting to some point of interest. We also attend two or three Area events with other troops, such as the annual Klondike Derby and the Scout Truck rally. We will undertake a few special hikes or other one-day outings on weekends, such as a river cleanup, planting trees or a one-day canoe trip. We also participate in a number of community service projects such as serving at a community dinner or participating in the Santa Toy Parade. Scouts discuss and plan these activities in advance, and we keep an active email list so parents can find out about them in advance too. When we do need to count heads, get information from parents or collect fees, please respond quickly to make it easier for leaders to plan.

## **The Scout Uniform and Scout Book**

The Scout Uniform has many purposes, among which are the following:

- to identify the wearer as a member of Scouts Canada and the World Organization of the Scout Movement
- to encourage a pride of belonging to Scouting
- to provide a common dress in which members from all segments of Canadian society can meet as equals.

The uniform consists of the following and can be purchased at The Scout Shop at 1345 Baseline Road in Ottawa:

Tan shirt - \$29.99	Sash - \$6.99
Scout Book \$9.99	Necker etc. - provided by group (see below)
Field Book \$9.99	Activity shirt – under review

- The uniform should be worn with comfortable pants (blue preferred on formal occasions).
- The tan shirt is the same one the Cubs use, so if they have that and it still fits they can continue to use it.
- Hand-me-down uniforms are sometimes available from older Cubs or Scouts who have outgrown their shirts or who have left scouting. The group usually tries to find these for you. Ask around!
- The green and white 115<sup>th</sup> Parkwood Hills neckers are provided by the troop upon investiture. Replacement scarves, if lost, will cost \$5.00 since they are hand-made by volunteers. Crests worn on the sash or uniform are also provided by the troop, as are the Scout's first epaulets (shoulders) and first woggle (holds necker on). Replacements are available at the scout shop. For badge placement, see the Scout Book or <http://www.scouts.ca/media/documents/scoutuniformS04.pdf>
- Uniforms should be kept relatively clean and Scouts should try to arrive tidy. We encourage some pride in wearing the uniform by having inspections.
- The Scout's name should be written on the tag of the shirt, the inside of the sash, and even on the underside of the necker – they all look alike after they come off during a game! The name is also critical on the Scout Books.

Scouts must arrive in uniform for every scouting function unless otherwise specified. The scarves particularly are useful for identifying our scouts during larger inter-group events (for outdoor winter events we will wear them outside our coats). For every meeting and planned event, the scouts will know what is required as uniform for that event.

### **Activity Fees and other Costs**

Scouts will also be asked from time to time to pay extra fees for special activities such as bowling or field trips (\$2-10), event days (\$5-10) and camps (~\$50), to cover the costs. Budgets for these events are available for discussion anytime before and after the event.

Please feel free to talk with the Group Committee chair or your Sea Scout leaders if the cost of the uniform or other activity fees creates a financial problem for your family. Group Committee/Scouts Canada may be able to provide assistance. It is very important that all youth have the opportunity to participate in Scouting programs and nobody will be left behind for financial reasons.

### **Program, Awards and Badges:**

A Sea Scout begins the program at the Pioneer Level, where they learn the scout promise, motto, law and other basics towards their investiture, the ceremony where they become full members of the ship's company. The Scout program consists of four Activity Areas: outdoor skills, citizenship, leadership, and personal development. Each of these is covered at three levels to which are attached Achievement Awards: Voyageur, Pathfinder and Chief's Scout. By participating in the activities and learning new skills, a scout earns credit against the requirements for the Activity Badges in each area at each level, starting

with Voyageur. By the time a scout gets to the Chief Scout level, he or she is developing his or her own requirements and goals for development.

In addition to the Activity Badges and Achievement Awards, there are a large number of Challenge Badges to recognize achievement in particular areas, such as the Paddling Badge or the Collector's Badge. Some of these will be done by the troop and others will be left up to each individual. The Challenge Badges are not attached to specific Achievement levels, but coloured chords are awarded to recognize progress on the Challenge Badges and a certain number is required to earn each level of Achievement Award.

There are also several stand-alone awards such as the World Conservation Badge, the Religion in Life Emblem, and the Year-Round Camper Award. A scout will also earn portions of the Year-Round Camper Award by participating in camps (including planning them).

The badge and award requirements provide the troop with objectives for delivery of the scouting program. As we look for opportunities for meeting those requirements, we ensure that we consider all aspects of a full scouting experience. Although it is not actually necessary to earn badges, the achievement and the learning from these activities is a worthwhile aspect of the scouting program, and the awarding of badges and awards helps to recognize individual growth.

The Scout Book lists all the program requirements and provides other helpful material. There are also some resources available on-line from other troops.

Homework: Additional work at home is encouraged to make up for requirements that were covered at meetings or outings missed by an individual scout, to do those activities that must be done at home (such as cooking a meal for your family!) or to earn additional badges as an individual. Some of our activities will require a scout or crew to research or plan between meetings to be able to present the result to the troop. A scout is also expected to do themselves most of their gear collecting and packing before a camp.

Testing: Scouts can ask to be tested at any time for a badge or any requirement by speaking to the designated leader at the start of a meeting. We have occasional catch-up meetings where we set aside even more time for such testing and for work with scouts who missed troop activities. It is not necessary to test all at once for every requirement to earn a badge – requirements can be accomplished over a period of time. Some requirements must be done at home and can be signed off by a parent or other adult, and recorded in the Scout Book. These are then shown and discussed with a leader at a meeting in order to be recognized in our records.

Awarding and Display: Badges and awards are presented at the closing ceremony of regular meetings once a month. Scouts are expected to sew them onto their sash as soon as possible (they are encouraged to do this sewing themselves!) Crests given out for camps, special events and prizes may be sewn on the back of the sash near the bottom, or may be collected or sewn on campfire blankets.

**Volunteers:** Some requirements need or benefit from expertise that our leaders may not have. If a parent has a particular talent, profession or hobby that would make them a good mentor or tester for any badge or award requirement please let a leader know. We would be glad to have your help! We are always looking for special visitors on different topics, or interesting places to visit, so if you can do it or have connections, please let us know. Volunteers are also required for driving, camping and other activities throughout the year – and Group Committee always has needs too.

### **Parent Communications and Feedback:**

Email is the primary method for keeping parents informed about upcoming events and obtaining information from parents and scouts. Although the scouts are fully informed at the meetings, not everything makes it home intact, including handouts which are thus rarely used. You may speak anytime to a leader before or after a meeting, or telephone the Skipper or other leaders. Email is the preferred method for regular exchanges. The Group Committee chairperson may be contacted with any concerns as well.

If your Scout has any special needs, or there is background information that will help us work with him/her better, please let us know. If there is something special happening in his/her life, or some event or condition, good or bad, that may affect behaviour, that is also useful to know. If you hear from your scout about something that bothers or thrills him/her at Scouts, let us know. We are volunteers trying to do our best to understand and bring out the best in your scout, so the more we know about how a scout is feeling, the better! The scouts themselves help in the planning of activities and they are usually pretty good about letting us know what they think, but extra feedback from parents is always helpful.

### **Contacts:**

#### **Sea Scouts:**

**Skipper:** Wayne Hannan 613-728-3847

**Leader:** Kevin O'Shea [koshea@sympatico.ca](mailto:koshea@sympatico.ca) (613) 225-9514

#### **Group Committee:**

**Email:** [115th.scouts@sympatico.ca](mailto:115th.scouts@sympatico.ca)

**Phone:** (613) 224-5910

**Website:** <http://115thphscouts.tripod.com>